Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A stand-alone, dedicated function restoring device for changing the state of a long-term memory device controller and subsequently restoring the controller to its original state comprising:

an interface for connecting to a storage device; and

memory to store critical data from the storage device; and

a processor coupled to the interface and memory, the processor issuing queries and commands to the storage device's controller, the processor storing all or part of the response in the memory, upon command the processor issues commands to restore the storage device's controller to its original state,

wherein the restoring device is operating system independent.

2. The restoring device of claim 1, wherein after querying the storage device's controller the processor issues commands to enable a host to read hidden data from the storage device.

3. The restoring device of claim 1, wherein the interface is an integrated device electronics (IDE) interface for a disk drive.

4. The restoring device of claim 3, wherein the processor issues

commands to retrieve the storage device's unique identification number and reported drive size from the Identify Device data packet and stores this information in the memory.

5. The restoring device of claim 3, wherein the processor issues further commands to the storage device to obtain data to allow the processor to analyze the full size of the storage device and subsequently issue commands to change the drive size reported by the storage device's controller in the Identify Device Packet, to enable a host to read data from the entire drive.

6. The restoring device of claim 3, wherein the processor, upon command, issues commands to restore the drive size reported by the storage device's controller in the Identify Device Packet, to its original state.

7. The restoring device of claim 3, wherein the processor, upon command, issues a command to switch Enable/Disable Address Offset Mode.

8. The restoring device of claim 3, wherein the processor, upon command, issues a command to restore the Enable/Disable Address Offset Mode to its original state.

9. The restoring device of claim 1, wherein the memory is removable,

such as a compact Flash card.

10. The restoring device of claim 1, wherein the memory is non-volatile memory.

11. Tho restoring device of claim 1, further comprising: an interface to communicate to a user the current state of the storage device.

12. The restoring device of claim 1, further comprising: an interface to communicate to a user that the storage device is password protected.

13. (currently amended) A stand-alone, dedicated function restoring device for changing the state of a long-term memory device controller and subsequently restoring the controller to its original state comprising:

means for interfacing with a storage device;

means for storing information from the storage device's controller;

means for querying and issuing commands to a storage device's controller;

means for restoring the storage device's controller to its original state.

14. The restoring device of 13, further comprising: means to enable a host to read data from hidden areas on a storage device.

15. The restoring device of 13, further comprising: means to communicate information to a user.